



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel

At its meeting held October 12, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Yaroslavsky made the following statement:

“Emergency rooms and trauma centers are essential elements of Los Angeles County’s healthcare system; however, access to these critical services is shrinking. Hospitals, public and private, are financially burdened by uncompensated care and unfunded mandates and as a result, are closing their doors one by one. Los Angeles County has lost five hospitals and three emergency rooms since 2001, and two more hospitals will join that closure list by the end of 2004. The ongoing loss of emergency services has become a crisis.

“The Emergency and Medical Services Initiative, Proposition 67 on the November ballot, would provide a stable funding stream for emergency services by increasing the current 911 surcharge on telephone calls made within California by 3 percent. The cost of the overall telephone surcharge for residential customers would be capped at a maximum of 50 cents per month, and senior citizens and others who receive lifeline service would be exempted.

“The initiative would generate about \$550 million in additional annual revenues that would help address the emergency medical services crisis by: helping to fund overcrowded emergency rooms; relieving emergency room overcrowding by funding community clinics that care for non-emergent patients; reimbursing emergency physicians and on-call specialists for uncompensated care; funding paramedic training and equipping Advanced Life Support Units, and maintaining the County-operated hospital safety net.

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“The revenue would be allocated as follows: \$330 million (60%) to emergency and trauma hospital services; \$167 million (30.5%) to emergency and trauma physician services; \$27.5 million (5%) to community clinics which provide urgent and primary care services; \$20.6 million (3.75%) to emergency and trauma first responders and paramedics, and \$4.1 million (0.75%) to the existing 911 Account. Proposition 67 would provide new funding to stabilize emergency and trauma care locally.”

Dr. Felix L. Nunez, representing South Central Family Health Center, Debra Ward representing Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, Mike Pfeiffer representing Los Angeles County Emergency Medical Directors Association, Elizabeth Benson Furer, representing Venice Family Clinic and other interested persons addressed the Board.

Supervisor Burke voiced her concerns regarding the impact Proposition 67, if passed, would have on minorities and young persons who use the cell phone as their primary phone. In addition, Supervisor Burke requested the County Counsel to report back on the provisions of Measure B, in respect to diminution of County trauma centers, the potential for litigation and whether it would be appropriate to discuss findings during Closed Session.

After discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Molina, duly carried by the following vote: Ayes: Supervisors Molina, Burke and Yaroslavsky; Noes: Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich, the Board took the following actions:

1. Endorsed Proposition 67, the Emergency and Medical Services Initiative, which would provide a stable funding stream for emergency services by increasing the current 911 surcharge on telephone calls made within California by 3%, which would generate about \$550 million in additional annual revenues to help address the emergency medical services crisis by stabilizing emergency and trauma care locally;
2. Urged the voters of California to vote “yes” on Proposition 67 on November 2, 2004; and

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3. Instructed the County Counsel to report back to the Board on the provisions of Measure B, in respect to diminution of County trauma centers, the potential for litigation and whether it would be appropriate to discuss findings during Closed Session.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Health Services